

Survey 1950-51. Statistics on causes of death are shown in the Chapter on Vital Statistics, pp. 215-216, and statistics of hospitals, mental and tuberculosis institutions are dealt with in Section 4 of this Chapter. Other health statistics collected nationally deal with notifiable diseases, illness among about 100,000 federal Civil Servants, and home nursing services. Following are some details on the Canadian Sickness Survey and notifiable disease reporting.

Subsection 1.—Canadian Sickness Survey

The Canadian Sickness Survey 1950-51.—This survey, carried out during a 12 month period commencing in the autumn of 1950, sought to give estimates of the incidence and prevalence of illness and accidents of all kinds, the amount of medical, nursing and other health care received, and the volume of family expenditures for the various types of health services. The information on which the estimates are based was obtained from a nationwide sample of approximately 10,000 households. The survey was planned and organized jointly by the federal Department of National Health and Welfare (who initiated the program), and the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, in consultation with the ten provinces, whose health departments carried out the survey under the federal National Health Program. A brief outline of the scope and methods of the survey was given in the 1955 Year Book together with some of the results. Study of the data still continues.

During the year 1955 further results of the survey became available, shedding more light on the pattern of sickness among Canadians and of the health care they receive. The results lend new emphasis to the health problems of the older age groups—which are also demonstrated by the data obtained from the study of illness in the Civil Service and from statistics on home nursing services—and indicate the relatively high amount of illness and demand for health services at the other extreme of the age scale: the children under 15 years of age.

Estimated Incidence and Prevalence of Illness in Canada During the Survey Year.—In regard to the severity of illness, the following tables distinguish between any illness, whether disabling or non-disabling, and disabling illness which prevents the patient continuing his usual activity, e.g. working, going to school, homemaking, etc. Incidence is measured by the number of new illnesses commencing during the survey year and the persons reporting these illnesses. Prevalence, on the other hand, measures the number of illnesses in progress at the exact time the survey began and the number of persons reporting illness at that time. It follows that though incidence does not reflect the duration of illness, illnesses of longer duration will affect the prevalence.

INCIDENCE OF ILLNESS BY AGE GROUP AND SEX 1950-51

Age Group	Estimated P.C. of Persons Reporting One or More—						Average Number of Illnesses Reported per 1,000 Persons—					
	New Illnesses			Disabling New Illnesses			New Illnesses			Disabling New Illnesses		
	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.
ALL AGES.....	74.9	80.3	77.6	53.6	58.4	56.0	2,050	2,409	2,228	995	1,105	1,049
Under 15.....	86.9	87.0	86.9	68.8	69.1	69.0	2,988	2,962	2,975	1,543	1,530	1,537
15-24.....	67.9	74.8	71.3	48.0	53.4	53.3	1,637	1,962	1,753	800	995	899
25-44.....	71.9	82.4	77.2	47.6	57.1	52.4	1,790	2,493	2,145	756	988	873
45-64.....	67.9	74.4	71.1	45.7	46.6	46.2	1,518	1,941	1,723	717	783	749
65 or over.....	67.9	71.6	69.7	44.3	48.0	46.1	1,517	1,889	1,701	721	842	781